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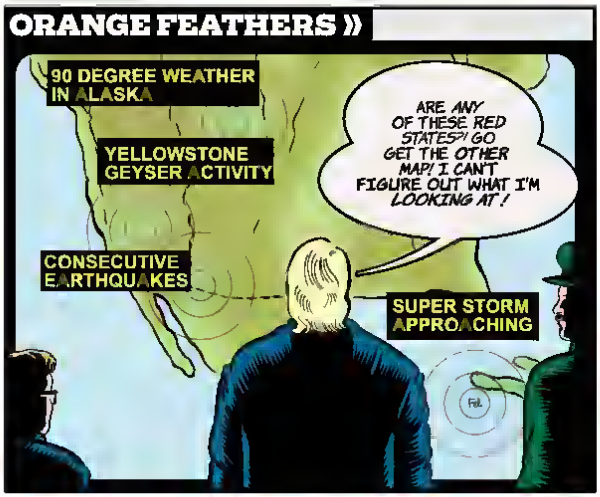
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ARE ANY OF THESE RED STATES?! GO GET THE OTHER MAP! I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M LOOKING AT!
SUPER STORM APPROACHING
FEL

FELIPE FLORES

OCWEEKLY.

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"These filthy rapist beaners need to go back to Mexico where they belong and leave this country to the true American white people that built this country! I report these uneducated wabs every day. They need to stay out of my city, my country! Thank God, He sent us President Trump to cleanse this country of all the ethnic criminals! #TrumpsAmerica #MakeAmericaGreatAgain #AllLivesMatter"
—Nate Archibald, commenting on Anthony Pignataro's June 28 post, "Santa Ana PD DUI Checkpoint Tonight"

Traffic Officer O'Malley responds: Sir, I only asked for your license and registration.

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Shell Game

Anaheim mayor helped sack a gas station that would have rivaled a political ally at the pump

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

GABRIEL SAN ROMAN

Morning commuters pull up to a Shell station in Anaheim Hills where a gallon of regular gas costs $3.99 if paid for with a debit or credit card. The fuel stop at the intersection of Imperial Highway and La Palma Avenue remains the sole such outpost near the on-ramp to the 91 freeway. And that's how it'll stay after Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu led the charge against a proposed Arco gas station opening across the street, successfully blocking the development during a June 18 Anaheim City Council meeting.

In doing so, Sidhu just happened to preserve a monopoly for Navaz Malik, the Shell station owner and political supporter who attended the mayor's victory party at his estate in Anaheim Hills, within a few months, Malik in turn transformed the council chambers, with Sidhu at the helm, into a full-service station.

The fenced-in dirt plot at the center of the controversy is owned by Isa Bahu and currently stores inventory from a local car dealership. Bahu's father owned his first Arco station at that location in the 1970s, until the property was demolished in 2004 through eminent domain to make way for the widening of Imperial Highway. Rebuilding the Arco station, a stated dream of Isa's now-deceased father, didn't seem daunting at first. The project found little dissent when the Planning Commission voted 6-1 on April 1 to move it along.

But in the days that followed, Malik and Aslam Dada, a car salesman with Cal City Corp., separately appealed the Planning Commission's decision. In the past, both Yorba Linda men contributed to Sidhu's failed state Assembly run in 2016. However, on the surface level, their objections to the new gas station read as practical, not political. Traffic jams at the intersection, failing zoning-code requirements and unsafe access for delivery trucks rounded out their list of grievances.

"After reviewing the project plans, I came to the conclusion that the builder is asking for leniency in exchange for safety," wrote Malik in an April 1 opposition letter. "It will be impossible for a gas station, the existing bus stop and the current flow of traffic to co-exist in this location. More importantly, it will be hazardous to drivers."

The Bahu family countered the complaints in a letter addressed to the City Council. "It's easy to understand that [the] existing Shell station in that corner would prefer to maintain their area monopoly, but comments from them that it would increase traffic, increase the number of left turns or be difficult for gas trucks to enter are without merit," the letter reads. A law firm retained by Bahu charged that Dada is a "close business associate" of Malik and deemed his role in the appeal as that of a "transparent strawman."

The fight then moved to a June 4 council meeting, where the appeal would either be denied or upheld. A staff report highlighted the appellants' key points of contention and largely refuted them in its analysis, setting the stage for the public hearing to follow. High-profile skirmishes over short-term rentals and a possible streetcar study commanded attention during the council meeting, but the fracas over the fuel station proved important enough to enlist heavy hitters on both sides.

Former Anaheim Police Department deputy chief Craig Hunter and former city manager Jim Ruth signed up in support of Arco station developer Bahu. Peter Mitchell, a consultant with the Anaheim Police Association (APA) and councilman Jordan Brandman's campaign last year, battled on behalf of Malik, as did Orange County GOP chairman Fred Whitaker, a former Orange city councilman.

Like everyone else who voiced opposition to the Arco station, Mitchell began his comments during the public hearing session of the meeting by paying fealty to free markets before offering a caveat. "Normally, we support and are pushing businesses for development," he said, representing Malik, the APA and Starlight City Cinema Theaters. "The question is this is a troubled project that should have had significant changes from the beginning."

The APA previously objected to the gas station in April as a "public-safety concern," citing traffic-collision statistics for the intersection.

"The project, the way it stands with one entrance, is fine," said Bahu in defense. "We've gone through and made a lot of concessions to make everybody happy, including the appellants." He agreed to a six-month review by the Planning Commission, a revision of delivery schedules and a sign alerting motorists to make U-turns farther down La Palma Avenue.

But would high-paid consultants and investigators really enter the fray over such squabbles?

Hunter, who heads the Veritas Investigative Solutions firm and was a former chief investigator for the Orange County district attorney's office before leaving amid a sexting scandal, delivered bombshell accusations during the public hearing—and they weren't about traffic impact, plot size or sole entrances. "It piqued my interest when [Bahu] started explaining to me that the appellant was going around town telling everyone that he had the mayor under his thumb," Hunter said. "It all just sounded rotten to me. This is not about fairness. This is about the $2 million a year that he'll lose when people get to pay 35 cents less a gallon."

After hours of debate, the council majority found the appellants' arguments more persuasive than the analysis by its own city staff. At the onset of the hearing, Sidhu disclosed that he met with both the applicant and the appellants. He didn't mention Malik and Dada's past political support, of course. The mayor closed the matter sounding more like a good government steward than a craven elected official using the powers of the city to squash a gas station that would inevitably compete with the business of his political benefactor.

"I support and encourage business opportunities in our city," said Sidhu. "But for me, safety comes before [being] pro-business on this item." A majority of his council colleagues agreed, the appeal was upheld by a 5-0-1 vote, with councilwoman Denise Barnes abstaining and councilman Jose Moreno out of town on a work trip.

Malik's political ties and campaign donations to Sidhu may have evaded all discussion, save for an allusion in Hunter's remarks, but they're well-documented and go back more than a decade. In 2007, the Pakistani American businessman co-hosted a campaign fundraiser at the Ayres Hotel in Yorba Linda in support of Sidhu's failed bid for a state Senate seat. In 2016, Malik contributed $2,200 to another failed run by Sidhu, this time for an Assembly spot.

Both Malik and Sidhu fared better when it came to last year's mayoral race in Anaheim. The gas station owner's name appears on a list of Sidhu's local endorsers. According to campaign contribution forms, Malik also donated $2,000 on Sept. 27, 2017—the maximum amount allowed at the time—to Sidhu's nod to become Anaheim mayor. He listed himself as a Shell gas station attendant. And, of course, after Sidhu won by fewer than 500 votes, Malik joined the victory-party revelry.

Neither Malik nor Sidhu responded to *Weekly* requests for comment.

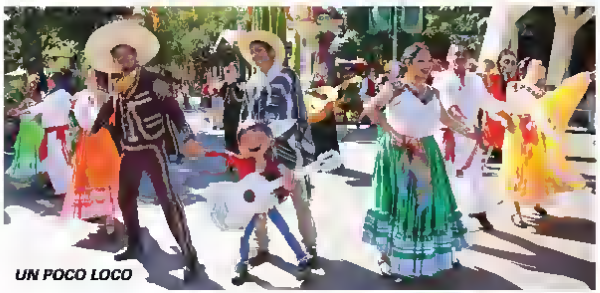
When the Arco station dispute came before council a final time on June 18, Moreno offered to table a vote on a formal resolution upholding the appeal given Bahu's stated flexibility to concerns aired. But a majority of council members showed their disinterest, no matter how many concessions were to be offered. Just before the council readied a vote, Brandman made it known that Hunter's comments at the past public hearing had "infuriated" him.

"It brought dirtiness into this chamber," he said. "I was outraged by it."

Soon after, the council voted 5-2 to adopt a resolution reversing the Planning Commission's recommended approval of Bahu's gas station—a move that preserves Malik's monopoly, as well as his political support of Sidhu.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

» GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN



UN POCO LOCO

MARCOS LOZANO

Chicano Park

Playing the part of Anaheim's Virgil, I appeared on *Américans*, a short-lived Telesur show five years ago and spoke about Disneyland's relationship with Latinos. The Mouse House courted our community, but Anaheim still reeled in the wake of police riots. In a time before *Coco*, all I could babble about was Princess Sofia, Disney's almost-Latina character, and a platitude about resort workers not being able to afford the fun.

These days, the Disneyland Resort is *más* Mexi than ever. When this Mouse-musing column debuted, legendary *cartoonista* Lalo Alcaraz mentioned what an Imagineer once told him: that half of all Anaheim theme park attendants are Latino. And it shows!

Even though summer just began, Relámpago del Cielo, the *baile folklorico* powerhouse from Santa Ana, is already warming up for "A Musical Celebration of *Coco*" at Disney California Adventure (DCA). A clip of the *Día de los Muertos* show featuring puppets, mariachi and dancing became a viral sensation last year. Even before Disney Pixar's *Coco* arrived in theaters two years ago with its stellar soundtrack, the Mouse already knew what musicians to hire for park performances, thanks to a longstanding relationship with the Grammy-winning Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea.

And it's not just entertainment at the resort where Mickey Mouse is turning Mexi. Dining outlets are now being catered to beyond churros. For a tasty summer treat, the Cozy Cone Motel at DCA offers elotes dusted with cotija cheese or Flamin' Hot Cheetos. Across the way, Schmoozies! serves up a mangonada smoothie with chamoy and mango chunks.

And then there's Disney's newest sought-after item: *concha* Minnie Mouse ears with a *sarape* bow. They debuted in May and have already sold out. Parkgoers ask retail workers about them every day. Don't worry; they will be back in stock soon enough.

It's all an inevitable evolution for the place where Doritos were born and ride safety instructions in Spanish have become an integral part of the resort's identity.

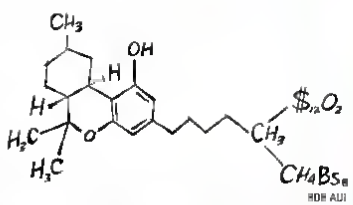
The browning of Disneylandia continues as demographic destiny. Call it *Mañanaland*!

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Weighty Subject



BOB AUL

Hey, dispensary workers: I don't know how many times I've gone into a spot to buy 2.5 grams and been told it doesn't sell half-grams. I just don't really see your logic. To me, this is a bad business move that I'm sure pisses off more than just me. Maybe it's because you greedily want me to tip you? But then why would I tip you when I feel you didn't even provide proper service? I'm sick of getting angry over this "no half-gram rule" when weed is supposed to ease your stress away. Well, my stresses are not relieved because of your rules! You know who you are, and it's time for a change. Put your customers' needs over your jar weights, and you might gain more dedicated customers. In the meantime, you have definitely lost my business!

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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BURGER OF THE DAY

THE REAL HAMBURGERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

By *OC Weekly* Staff

FEDERICO MEDINA

My brother-in-law recently invited family members to join him at a neighborhood bar billed as serving great hamburgers. Now I loves me some cheeseburger just as much as the next girl, but such an invitation is nothing to get excited about. That's because we all have our favorite burgers (and burger spots), and no amount of competition for your burger dollar is going to change your mind.

Well, guess what? My special with double patties, double cheese, barbecue sauce and a mound of bacon was among the best I've ever tasted. At the very least, it gave me thoughts of cheating on my favorite burger/burger spot. Sorry, animalized In-N-Out!

That's the point of *OC Weekly*'s inaugural Burger Issue. We don't necessarily want to replace your pride and joy, but isn't it at least worth investigating the other burgers out there? Among those listed here are traditional faves from the likes of Cassidy's and TK Burgers. There are also build-your-own classics at the Riders Club Cafe and Shwack Beach Grill, as well as mixes of the traditional with the fortified at BurntZilla and Native Son Alehouse. We further mix things up with the Gold Foil at Lola Gaspar, the green chile cheeseburger at Panxa Cocina, the Royale With Cheese at Burger Parlor, and the Cilantro Caprese at Wild Goose Tavern. Vegan delights are highlighted from Veggie Grill, Freesoulcaffe and Umami Burger, the latter of which also hawks unique takes that include a truffle burger.

Truffles? My, how fancy. Look out, animalized In-N-Out! (Matt Coker)

PANXA COCINA

In the great burger war between California and Texas, an enchanting offering from a state in the middle often gets lost in the fray. New Mexico is the proud home of Blake's Lotaburger, a chain that boasts a green chile cheeseburger that easily beats In-N-Out's and Whataburger's inferior offerings. Alas, there's not one Lotaburger in California. But Long Beach's Panxa Cocina blesses us with New Mexican fare, including its take on Lotaburger's proud tradition. Panxa's green chile burger is compact yet burly. The fluffy bun is branded with a "P" for Panxa, but it could also mean *picoso*—a warning that

PANXA COCINA BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

it's spicy, as if the Hatch chile chunks sliding down the sides atop melted white queso Oaxaca aren't already foreboding enough. But don't be *miedoso*, lest you miss out on something *sabroso*! The Hatch's beat definitely makes itself known at first bite, and while it will induce a round of sniffles, it's ultimately bearable. Every morsel from then on is dominated by a thick charbroiled patty prepared to preference. Lettuce, tomatoes and pickled onions round out the rest. This beefy beast comes with a companion side of fries dusted with a delightful mix of cotija cheese, black pepper, salt and paprika. All together, it's the perfect blend of heat and heft. (Gabriel San Román) *3937 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 433-7999, panxacocina.com.*

TK BURGERS

TK Burgers exemplifies the "less is more" theory of greatness. It's a simple, inexpensive hamburger with simple, inexpensive ingredients: lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, secret sauce and a bun. The patty is thin, but it's grilled so well it tastes akin to one from a family cookout when you were 10. The bun is soft, but it doesn't get soggy. And this is a surfer's burger: easy to eat on the go, but still delicious and filling. Those in Southern California who do the In-N-Out vs. Five Guys thing nearly always forget TK (there are five locations in OC, after all), which is dumb because TK Burgers is an order of magnitude better than either chain.

(Anthony Pignataro) *2966 Bristol Ave., Costa Mesa, (714) 662-2572, also at 110 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (714) 960-3238, 24902 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, (949) 588-7200, 2119 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, (949) 673-3438, and 2212 S. Lyon St., Santa Ana, (714) 545-5100.*

BURNTZILLA

Two Orange County food trucks, the Burnt Truck and Dogzilla, collaborated to combine hotdogs and sliders. The resulting union led to a brick and mortar in Irvine called BurntZilla that sells a variety of tasty sliders, including a classic cheeseburger, fried cheese and buttermilk fried chicken. But the cheeseburger slider is what you want: a mini hamburger patty served with grilled onions and avocado sauce on a Hawaiian sweet roll. For those with larger appetites, BurntZilla also sells full-sized burgers, such as the large Western (a one-third-pound patty with smoked Cheddar, a house barbecue sauce, bacon and onion strings) and the Cross Over, which includes a fried egg, bacon, Tapatio aioli and guacamole. (Nikki Nelsen) *14413 Culver Dr., Irvine, (949) 392-5995, www.burntzilla.com.*

LOLA GASPAR

This SanTana eatery doesn't mess around when it comes to *comida* and *fútbol*. Lola Gaspar is one of the best spots in Orange County in which to catch matches year-round, regularly screening its beloved Barça for fans to enjoy. We recommend you belly up to the bar and celebrate the Gold Cup win with a Gold Foil Burger. What makes the burger here so special is its sheer simplicity: An Electric City Butcher patty comes slightly charred and topped with American cheese singles, griddled onions and a drippy, rich, house-made fry sauce. It's the perfect victory burger, best enjoyed with a side of fries and mezcal. (Cynthia Rebolledo) *211 W. Second St., Santa Ana, (714) 972-1172, www.facebook.com/lolagaspardtsa.*

buns, vegan patties and burger salads. (Shannon Aguiar) *204 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 441-2003, also at 149 N. Glassell St., Orange, (714) 602-8220; www.burgerparlor.com.*

THE RIDERS CLUB CAFE

Taking the classic burger to a whole new level, the Riders Club Cafe lets customers create their ultimate dream burger. Guests choose from four patty options (ground beef, veggie, chicken or portabello mushroom), then pick from six different cheeses (Cheddar, Muenster, Swiss, goat-cheese spread, blue and havarti) and five additional toppings (bacon, grilled mushrooms, roasted chile peppers, avocado and egg). No matter what you choose, each burger is served on a beautiful challah bun with lettuce, pickles, grilled or raw onions, and a house spread. Depending on your mood, you can ask for kettle chips or house pickled beets to compliment your own signature burger. (Haley Chi-Sing) *1701 N. El Camino Real, San Clemente, (949) 388-3758; www.riderscubcafe.com.*

WILD GOOSE TAVERN

In our 2018 Best Of issue, the Wild Goose Tavern was rightfully dubbed Best Dive Bar because of its wide beer selection, cocktails and food, with a menu that stretches from salads to sausages. But it's the burgers that keep us coming back—especially the Cilantro Caprese Burger. This hearty sandwich comes slathered in garlic aioli and a cilantro chimichurri that zings. It's topped with oven-blistered tomatoes and a large square of fried mozzarella that lays across the patty, drooping just slightly as the soft outer breading tries to contain the gooey cheese. And to soak up the fallen juices that ooze out of the burger after every bite, you'll need a side of fries or fried pickles. You won't want to waste a single drop. (Mercedes Del Real) *436 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 722-9453, goosebar.com.*

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

BURGER OF THE DAY

» FROM PAGE 9

NATIVE SON ALEHOUSE BY AIMEE MURILLO

VEGGIE GRILL

The Veggie Grill offers a Beyond Meat patty that tastes almost like the real thing—dripping with fake vegan "blood" and all. The Beyond Burger is topped with a tangy special sauce, vegan cheese, sweet grilled onions, tomatoes, lettuce and a sesame-seed bun. Even though beyond meat can taste "too real" for some animal-free eaters, it's a great alternative to those soggy veggie patties available at most places. (NN) *13786 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, (714) 669-3037, also at 732 Spectrum Center, Irvine, (949) 727-9900, 27321 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 362-9649, and 6451 Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 430-4986, www.veggiegrill.com.*

COURTESY OF VEGGIE GRILL

NATIVE SON ALEHOUSE

A craft beer bar isn't necessarily the first place we'd run to for an amazing burger, yet Native Son Alehouse's Santa Ana Burger is more delicious than the sum of its (minimal) parts. It's simple yet so classic. Supported by a pillowy brioche bun is a grass-fed beef patty from Fourth Street Market's Electric City Butcher, locally grown lettuce, tomatoes and onions, Muenster cheese, and a house-made spread akin to Thousand Island dressing. The brioche, Muenster and that spread combine for an unexpected sweetness we love. Scaled down to a humble size, it's reminiscent of the burgers you'd encounter at a drive-in movie or neighborhood barbecue, yet it packs a wallop of flavor with every bite. While it won't overshadow the numerous libations on tap, the Santa Ana Burger stands on its own as a hearty companion and an excellent tribute to its namesake city. (Aimee Murillo) *305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 200, Santa Ana, (714) 204-0337, nativesonale.com.*

SHWACK BEACH GRILL

Though this much-beloved Dana Point hot spot offers five burger options, it has truly mastered the classic with its Shwack burger. The cult favorite comes with lettuce, tomato, red onions, its signature Shwack sauce and a fresh-baked bun. One can't go wrong with this burger, but if you're in the mood for something different, there's Big Al's Bacon Burger, Low Tide Turkey Burger, Good Vibes Veggie Burger and Groundswell Ahi Tuna Burger. (HCS) *24502 Del Prado Ave., Dana Point, (949) 218-2731, theshwack.com*

UMAMI BURGER

Umami Burger is the go-to stop if you are looking for a fast, but still high-quality gourmet burger. The chain is widely known for its Impossible Burgers (made with the infamous vegan meat), of which you can choose from four options. But our hands-down favorite is the Impossible Trufflemaker, which features truffle aioli, truffle cheese and truffle glaze—It will definitely get you hooked on the Impossible. (Janelle Ash) *338 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 991-8626, also at 2981 Bristol St., Ste. B-2, Costa Mesa, (714) 957-8626, and 527 Spectrum Dr., Irvine, (949) 396-1830, www.umamiburger.com.*

CASSIDY'S

It's not that the burger shouldn't be so juicy and bulking and delicious, but rather that the Cassidy's burger shouldn't exist at all. This dive on the Newport peninsula is at times rough and seedy, yet at other times quiet and . . . seedy. It has a tiny grill—not even room for a fryer—yet somehow sells the best burger in Newport Beach for just $8.50. Sure, you can get it with cheese for 50 cents more, if you like that kinda thing. But there's something refreshing, even cleansing about devouring a straight half-pound beef patty topped with just lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, mustard and a few generous squirts of spicy Pepper Plant sauce. The bun is soft, and the lower half will become soggy with beef juice after just a few moments. But the meat is perfectly seasoned and beautifully grilled. This burger won't just satisfy your hunger; it will also give you hope. (AP) *2603 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, (949) 675-8949.*

FREESOULCAFFÉ

For as much of an oxymoron as it sounds, vegan burger-eaters have a multitude of joints to satisfy their herbivorian itch, many of them mentioned above. But the list is not complete without Freesoulcaffé in Tustin. Among the four plant-based options it sells is the Hatch burger. With vegan jalapeño cheese, Sriracha aioli and a Hatch chile relish, this burger pleases anyone who prefers theirs with a hint of spice. The patty itself has a chewy, moist texture and a smoky flavor befitting the whopping $14 price tag. Though it's not as spicy as its name suggests, the Hatch burger is definitely more flavorful than many other vegan burgers available. That said, spicy food enthusiasts should consider bringing their own bottle of hot sauce. (Jackson Guilfoil) *191 E. Main St., Ste. 1B, Tustin, (714) 371-0976, www.freesoulcaffe.com.*

UMAMI BURGER BY SHANNON AGUIAR

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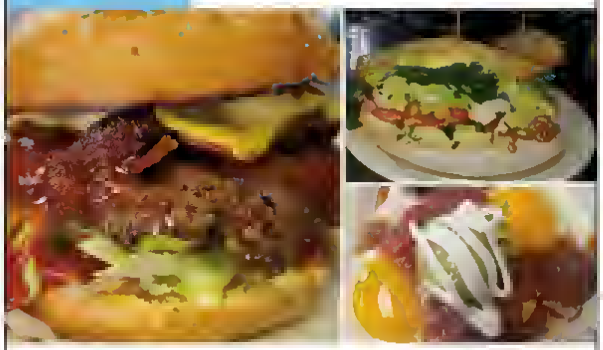

The Penguin has been family owned and operated since 1968. We proudly serve Boarshead meat and cheese products and our beef is locally sourced and picked up daily. We use tried and true family recipes for a classic family dining experience. Our tiny hole in the wall is a throw back to old-time Laguna where you get "to know your neighbor".

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COURTESY OF OC FAIR

fri/07/12

[FOOD & DRINK]

Not Our First Rodeo

OC Brew Hee Haw

The sixth-annual Brew Hee Haw is an event within an event. Every year, this unlimited-beer fest coincides with the opening weekend of the OC Fair (something for the kids and something for the grown-ups, right?). But the Brew Hee Haw has become so popular it had to move to the fairgrounds' large Hangar venue to accommodate the ever-growing number of beer-thirsty folks donning cowboy getups. So grab your chaps (or not—you really don't have to dress up) and prepare yourself for four straight hours of sampling from the more than 80 brews on tap, plus live music from excellent cover bands Dead Man's Party and Fast Times.

OC Brew Hee Haw at the Hangar at OC Fair & Events Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, hrewheehaw.com. 8 p.m., also Sat. $55-$75. —ERIN DEWITT

[FILM]

Skip Netflix

Avengers: Infinity War

It seems like yesterday (or at least late April) that the final chapter of the *Avengers* series conquered box offices globally. But that wouldn't have been possible without the buildup from the previous 23 Marvel Comics Universe (MCU) movies—in particular, the devastating *Infinity War*. Everyone's favorite ensemble met their match in Thanos, who tried to obtain all six Infinity Stones. If you haven't seen it already, here's your chance to see what happened in the snap of a finger that changed the MCU forever (or did it?) with high-end snacks and atop a floatie in a hotel pool.

Summer Dive-In Movies: *Avengers: Infinity War* at Fashion Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 759-0808, www.fashionislandhotel.com. 7:30 p.m. $10; hotel guests, free. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

sat/07/13

[FILM]

YOUTH IN REVOLT

Breathless

The "jump cut" camera technique that frames iconic performances by gorgeous Jean Seberg and roguishly handsome Jean-Paul Belmondo in the 1960 French New Wave classic *Breathless* is just one element that made the film the progenitor of stylish, youthful recklessness. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard, this anti-Romeo meets his naive Juliet love story is well-loved by cinephiles, and newbies watching it at the Art Theatre will likely be impressed at just how much the cinematography, characterization and acting defines 60 years of movie-making, attitude and inner self-destruction via celebratory solipsistic rebellion. Dying young has never been so sexy.

Breathless at the Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435, artlbeachtheatre.org. 11 a.m., also Sun. $10. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

[RECREATION]

The Game Is Afoot!

CluedUpp

Think you could be the next Sherlock Holmes or Nancy Drew? Put your sleuthing skills to the test at CluedUpp, an interactive, outdoor detective game taking over the city of Anaheim. Get together with up to five friends and choose a team name, dress up in your best 1920s-themed get-up, then download the app and start solving clues! Prizes will be awarded in such categories as Fastest Team, Best Fancy Dress, Best Team Picture, Best Team Name, Best Little Detective, etc. Don't forget to bring a magnifying glass!

MORE ONLINE
OCWEEKLY.COM

CluedUpp at various locations, Anaheim, www.cluedupp.com/anaheim.html. 10 a.m. $60. —HALEY CHI-SING

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FRI, AUG 23
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SUN, SEPT 1
BRYAN ADAMS
FRI, SEPT 13
THE DOOBIE BROTHERS
SAT, SEPT 14

sun/07/14

[FILM]

Flower Power

Woodstock: The Director's Cut

Considered the benchmark for all concert films, as well as the most entertaining, director Michael Wadleigh's chronicle of Woodstock's iconic, three-day, outdoor music festival in Bethel, New York, in 1969 won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature and grossed $50 million, making it one of the most profitable films in history. This Director's Cut includes footage not shown in the original theatrical release. So grab your edibles or whatever—but *not* the brown acid—and join Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez, Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Arlo Guthrie, the Who, Santana and more for a rock & roll flashback to the days of free music, free water and free love.

Woodstock: The Director's Cut at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St. #100, Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 7 p.m. $8-$10. —SR DAVIES

[THEATER]

That's The Way Love Goes

Twelfth Night

William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* has all the dramatic twists and turns of a soap opera, yet it was written as a comedy. Twins Viola and Sebastian are separated during a shipwreck, and each believes the other has perished. Viola dresses up as a sea captain's aid, calls herself Cesario and lends herself as a servant to Duke Orsino, who is in love with Olivia. Olivia ends up falling for Cesario—though Viola has actually fallen in love with Orsino! If that's not juicy enough of a plot for you, Sebastian eventually comes into the picture, setting off even more intrigue and drama. Check out Alchemy Theatre Co.'s stellar production in the outdoors; bringing chairs and shade is recommended.

Twelfth Night at Hillcrest Park, 1200 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 738-6575, www.alchemytheatre.com. 3 p.m. $18. —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/07/15

[FAMILY EVENTS]

One Giant Leap

Apollo's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Fans of outer space should definitely head to the Discovery Cube's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo* landing, the first instance of astronauts touching down on the moon. Interactive displays allow guests to operate a 112-foot-long telescope to see a black hole or a planet. Dig into Newton's Third Law of Motion, or learn how high you'd be able to jump on the moon. You'll even get to blast rockets to understand the concepts of pressure and motion.

Apollo's 50th Anniversary Celebration at Discovery Cube, 2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 542-2823, discoverycube.org. 10 a.m. Through July 28. $14.95-$19.95. —JANELLE ASH

tue/07/16

[CONCERT]

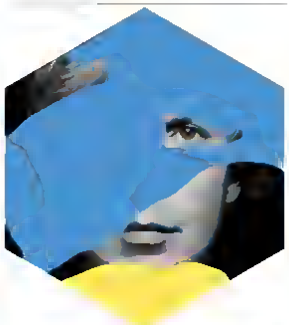
Get Ready

Stone Soul

Motown tribute band Stone Soul are an eight-member group that plays renditions of musical legends such as Smokey Robinson, the Temptations, Stevie Wonder and others. If you want to dance yourself back to the '60s, check out their performance tonight as part of the Costa Mesa Foundation's Concerts In the Park series. The show kicks off right about the time the blazing summer heat dies down, enjoy food and wine from local vendors, as well as various activities for the kids.

Concerts In the Park: Stone Soul at Fairview Park, 2501 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, (714) 754-5300; www.costamesaca.gov. 6 p.m. Free. —JOSEPH BAROUD

wed/07/17



COURTESY OF LITTLE NASTY MAN

[CONCERT]

WHERE IT'S AT
Beck and Cage the Elephant

As rock tours lean more and more on the side of nostalgia, this bill might be the exception to the rule. The musicians appearing at the FivePoint Amphitheatre tonight continue to release tunes that are popular with the increasingly niche rock audience. But who's to doubt that Beck, Cage the Elephant and Spoon would do otherwise? They remain darlings of the indie world with their unique interpretations of rock. Come get your fix of a big rock tour that doesn't mean sweating to a package tour of has-beens.

Beck, Cage the Elephant, Spoon and Starcrawler at FivePoint Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon, Irvine, (949) 988-6800, www.livenation.com. 6 p.m. $45-$210. All ages. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[THEATER]

You Can Dance
Mamma Mia!

Join Sophie as she plans her wedding while searching for answers about her mother's secretive past in an effort to discover the identity of her father. Few musicals capture the freedom and self-expression that *Mamma Mia!* portrays through the story of a daughter seeking to bring her family together, but also grow up and be her own woman. With the combination of music from ABBA, lively choreography and a heartfelt family story set on a quaint island in Greece, you can't help but sing along. No matter the audience, anyone can be a "Dancing Queen" and have the time of their lives!

Mamma Mia! at the Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-2787, lagunaplayhouse.com. 7:30 p.m. Through Aug. 4. $65-$105. —JOSEPH BEAIRD

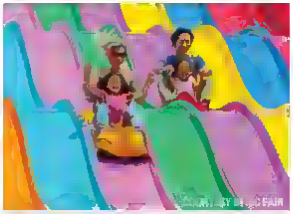
thu/07/18

[THEATER]

Out of This World
Sockhop on Saturn: A Cosmic 1950s Experience

Have you ever wanted to step into a 1950s scene, but thought the experience just wouldn't be science fiction-y enough for you? If so, then *Sockhop on Saturn* will cure what ails you. This colorful, immersive, theatrical experience has landed at the Brea Mall, ready to transport guests to an alternate 1959, in which commercial space travel has been perfected. As part of the fun, visitors will have the opportunity to mix with Saturnian versions of '50s character types, get an alien make-over, indulge in strange new beverages, and enjoy an alternate universe's version of comedy routines and rock concerts. Twisted nostalgia, here we come!

Sockhop on Saturn: A Cosmic 1950s Experience at the Brea Mall, 1065 Brea Mall, Brea, (724) 209-4471, www.thewonder.live. 7 p.m. Through July 28. $24-$74. —SCOTT FEINBLATT



[AMUSEMENT PARKS]

PLAYTIME'S JUST BEGUN
OC Fair

Finally, the long-awaited summer carnival known as the OC Fair is back! This year's theme is Acres of Fun, and it promises to be bigger and better in many ways. For example: the range of bizarre fried-food concoctions has expanded to include Hot Cheetos and cheese turkey legs, Buffalo chicken chimichangas, fried hummus, Fruity Pebbles shrimp po'boy, and more. The Pacific Amphitheatre's lineup of summer concerts is stacked, too, with Chaka Khan, Smokey Robinson, Pat Benatar and other legends performing. But ultimately, what keeps us coming back are the annual staples of wholesome fair enjoyment, from the endless rides and livestock displays to extreme sports and the art and vendor marketplaces. So wrangle up your posse for another opportunity to leave adult responsibilities behind. Don't worry; they'll be waiting for you tomorrow.

OC Fair at OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500; ocfair.com. Noon. Through Aug. 11. $12-$14. —AIMEE MURILLO

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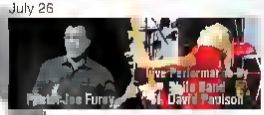
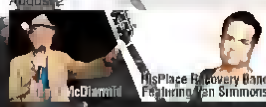
SPEAKER TOPIC
TAPPED OUT DEFEATED POWERLESS
July 19

SPEAKER TOPIC
MAKING THE CHOICE: MY FAMILY OR DRUGS
July 26



SPEAKER TOPIC
I LET IT ALL, AND GAINED EVERYTHING
August 2



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7/20 - Anthem UK vs. USA
Battle of Classic Rock Icons
7/20 - Ticket to Ride
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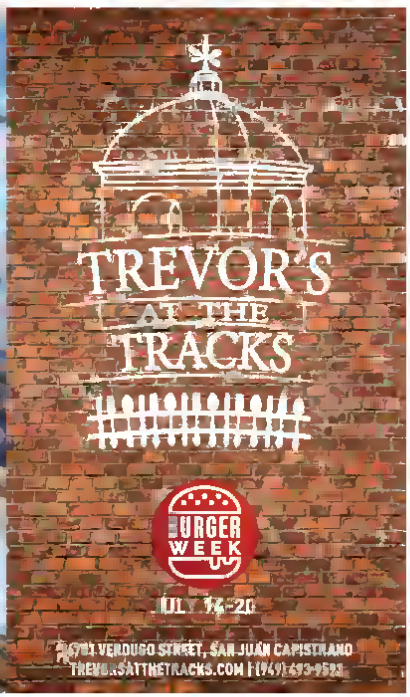

THE AMAZON OF SHABU

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

Just Keep Boiling

AYCE chain Shabuya opens its first restaurant in OC

BY EDWIN GOEI

There's regular shabu-shabu restaurants, and then there's Shabuya, the all-you-can-eat buffet chain of all the things you'd ever want to boil, simmer and swish in your own roiling vat of broth. I first encountered the brand in La Mirada two years ago, and in the time since, it has become the shabu-shabu model that others in this growing genre could ever hope to imitate. It's the Amazon.com of shabu.

Inside the vast, gleaming chrome dining room, with ventilation vents draping down from the ceiling as though they were robotic tentacles, was controlled chaos. The servers at the La Mirada branch were not only servers, but also traffic cops, logistics experts and couriers. They topped off my personal shabu pot with more broth, refilled my water glass with iced water to cool my scalded palate, and, of course, delivered the platters of thinly sliced meat that would define my evening and fill my gut.

Ordering the meat at Shabuya—especially the marbled pieces of premium Wagyu—was as easy and gratifying as hitting the same-day Prime Shipping button. There were other proteins, too, including chicken and lamb, but the tenderest and most mouth-melting was the beef. Shabuya allows three orders of any kind of meat at a time, but at some point, I ended up with half a dozen. And as I swished, dipped and ate, everything blurred together like a drunken night on the town. I lost track of what tender slice was currently melting in my mouth.

Since all the meat was brought to me, I could've conceivably remained in my seat the entire night, but that would have denied me half the fun. All sight lines in the restaurant lead to a buffet island, which is stocked with everything edible known to humankind. There were enough vegetables to correct my nutritional karmic balance to the positive. But there were also just as many complex carbohydrates to turn the needle back the other way. Imagine a salad bar in which all the produce is designed to wilt in hot broth. It started with the basics of Napa cabbage and bok choy, but it quickly blossomed to include nearly every type of mushroom known to science. Since Shabuya is Korean-owned, there was, of course, kimchi. But I counted at least three kinds of onions. And yes, there were oodles of noodles. What kind did I want—ramen, Korean pasta, rice noodle, udon? Those were just half of my options.

It took multiple trips to try every one of the meatballs, fish balls and fish cakes that came from numerous species—more than Jacques Cousteau encountered, I'm sure. I saw a sauicing station that had more colors than Bob Ross had paint. There were at least three blends of spicy, more than one sweet, and all kinds of sour and savory. There was even an egg sauce whose white color and thickness reminded me of In-N-Out's vanilla milkshake. And if I didn't already recoup the cost of admission by gorging on the beef, there was fresh seafood to be had—all of it meant to be boiled in the broth alongside everything else. I plucked out a few plump crawfish and a whole mess of spindly blue crabs, and I ate so many sea scallops that night I think I nudged the restaurant just a little closer toward bankruptcy.

Last week, I attempted to repeat that seminal Shabuya experience at its new location in Fountain Valley—the chain's first foray into OC. The dining room here was smaller and without the hanging vents. And on busy nights, you're liable to be seated at a communal table where your plates might get mixed up with those of the person next to you.

But there were even more noticeable differences between this restaurant and the one in La Mirada. The pots weren't inset into the table, but rather lying flat on top of it. And though still overwhelming, the buffet selection was smaller. I only saw one kind of mushroom, fewer choices of fish balls, and the scallops were a no-show. I was disappointed that the creamy egg sauce I enjoyed was also absent. And although the Fountain Valley branch offered an additional pork option, it didn't compensate for the fact that lamb was completely shut out.

Honestly, though, if I weren't trying to compare the two outlets—which are owned by two different franchisees—I would've enjoyed myself just the same. This Shabuya is equivalent to those lowercase Target stores that are smaller and carry a limited selection of items. Unless you were looking for something in particular, you'd never know the difference. And by the end of the night, after you've stuffed yourself with so much Wagyu beef you think you might die, you won't.

SHABUYA

16279 Brookhurst St., Ste. B 9, Fountain Valley, (714) 860-7772, shabuya aet. Open Mon -Thurs., 11 30 a m -10 p m , Fa -Sat., 11 a.m -11 p.m., San., 11 a m -10 p m $26.99 per persoa Beer aad soju

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» GREG NAGEL

OC's IPA Dominance

The title of the best IPA at the World Beer Cup was won by Orange County. The best double IPA at the World Beer Cup? OC has that, too—back to back. But what about the best New England IPA? Turns out we just got a medal in that as well, thanks to some talented locals at the National Homebrew Competition (NHC) which was held in Providence, Rhode Island, late last month.

Aaron Vieira and his assistant, Matt Cowper, both of whom belong to the Costa Mesa-based homebrew club Orange County Mashups, won bronze for specialty IPA, a category that saw a whopping 475 entries. If one of those names looks familiar, perhaps it's because Vieira won bronze at last year's NHC. We talked to him, post-competition, about his big win.

OC WEEKLY: *It's ballsy to brew a hazy IPA for a national competition. What went into yours?*

AARON VIEIRA: It's easy to follow an IPA recipe, but it's tough to make a great one. We've been making IPAs for a long time and have figured out a bunch of tricks to get closer to "local brewery fresh" IPA instead of "back stock at the grocery store" IPA.

Did any pro brewers assist in the recipe or process?

Ian McCall from Rip has been super helpful. He actually inspired the hops we chose in this beer. We used a hop called "Enigma" that he discovered; it's really white wine-like in that gooseberry way—like Nelson Sauvin, but without all the green dankness.

With two NHC awards under your belt, when are you going to open a brewery?

Can I borrow a few million bucks?

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PHOTOS BY ERIN DEWITT

Powered By Plants

Long Beach welcomes its first vegan drive-thru

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» ERIN DEWITT

It's been in the works for more than a year, and now, Long Beach's first totally vegan drive-thru is open. Well, the drive-thru portion was still under some construction a few days after opening at the end of June, but the concept is there: plant-based fast food.

Plant Power, a company that operates vegan fast-food eateries in San Diego, Encinitas and Redlands, opened its first LA/OC location at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Clark, in the space that previously belonged to University Burger.

The new restaurant is the chain's best-looking yet. There's a large, circular dining room, with floor-to-ceiling windows and dark beams holding fans on full blast. A lime-green neon sign proclaims you've reached "The Future of Fast Food," and there's a little garden patio if you want to dine al fresco. Patrons order at the counter and wait (either at a table or a standup counter) for their number to be called. There are prepackaged salads by the registers and a self-serve soda fountain.

While it's technically fast food, the wait is a little longer than you'd find at, say, your typical In-N-Out.

Plant Power's menu reads like an elevated American diner's, with milkshakes, sandwiches, burgers and fries, plus "chicken" wings, tenders and nuggets, raw tacos, and kombucha. It also offers a morning-only list of breakfast-foods-stuffed muffins and burritos. All with nary an animal product in sight. Most of the menu is stippled with quotation marks for meat pretenders, see the "chicken" sandwich, "fish" filet sandwich, the classic "bacon cheeseburger" and more. And while vegan cuisine is still fairly new to most, this marketing tool may be necessary. Hopefully, there will come a day when vegan food can just be vegan and stop trying to taste like animals. Plant Power does offer a black-bean patty in place of its standard "beefy" patty for no additional charge.

Among its Signature Burgers is a Big Mac mimic dubbed the Big Zak. It's much larger than the burger it imitates, as well as much softer, both in flavor and texture. Three large, pillowy buns encase two "beefy" patties, Zac sauce, American "cheese," lettuce, onions and pickles. Though the sauce lacks tang and is definitely on the mild side, the patties were well-seasoned. And just for fun, it comes in a retro-looking orange-and-yellow burger box.

The Buffalo '66 option—crispy "chicken" topped with lettuce, tomato and "ranch" dressing—can be ordered as a wrap or sandwich. I went with the wrap, which was decent and definitely filling. Plus, the Buffalo sauce had a nice zip. Though, for some reason, I kept tasting seaweed. I have to admit Veggie Grill down the street has got Plant Power beat in the vegan Buffalo chicken department.

The absolute smash though is Plant Power's Iconic Fries, a no-shame rip-off of In-N-Out's Animal Fries. These tasted near-identical, with the silkiest non-dairy cheese atop perfectly crispy fries, golden caramelized onions and a tangy relish-laden secret sauce.

If you go during peak hours, be warned. The parking lot is cramped, with cars squeezing in and out of stalls. And once the drive-thru is fully functional, expect long-ass lines curving around the restaurant. But the thrill of getting a completely vegan burger-and-fries meal, complete with a milkshake, without leaving your car? Worth it.

PLANT POWER
5095 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach,
(562) 343-5045, www.plantpowerfastfood.com.

PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

Brunch Lee

Sharing brunch al fresco at Pour Company

After the gloomiest of Junes, during which crawling out of bed on the weekend felt as if you were escaping from a grave, it's nice to see July make a turnaround. As a recent sunny weekend dawned, not only were the lazy chihuahuas doing circular races around the bed, but I also got in on the fun. I jumped up on the bed and, in fully naked karate stance, proclaimed the need to brunch somewhere, preferably outdoors, as all hungry breakfast ninjas do.

"Hey, Google," I said, "text friends list, brunch at 11 at Pour Company in DFT."

"Text who?" it asked.

"My friends list," I replied, annoyed.

Then it said the coldest thing a robot could ever say: "I'm sorry, I can't find any friends."

Way to spoil a perfectly good start to the day, Google. If I had nunchaku, I would have whipped them around a few times at the Google Home device—before knocking myself out, hitting a dog, or popping a hole in the ceiling.

I do have actual friends, and we did meet at Pour Company, whose hidden gem is a covered back patio that has its own bar. "I'll get the michelada," I said, eyeballing my options.

Pour Company's tap list is well above average, with plenty of hits from Green Cheek, Chapman Crafted, Stereo and Beachwood. Pleasantly absent are the mango carts that clog the tap lines of every other Fullerton eatery. Even my tall-handled michelada used whatever craft lager was available; it was so good I had two.

My wife set the timer on her phone, ordered a mimosa and informed the table, "It has a two-hour limit." This woman brunches hard.

Chef Nick Oberlin's weekend brunch menu features a lot of shareable dishes, which is great for those who like to graze on a few different items, such as the breakfast nachos, which are piled high with tangy salsa verde and cotija cheese, then topped with runny eggs. My only complaint is that adding chorizo costs $4 more when it probably should come standard considering the $13 price.

The steak and eggs dish is also surprisingly shareable, with large hunks of medium-rare hangar steak topped with piquant chimichurri and eggs. The crispy potatoes make a great vessel for sopping up whatever leftover juices and garlicky nuggets remain on the plate.

Like yellow on a madras plaid suit, a common thread lies throughout several dishes: a deep-yellow mustard hollandaise sauce. It's not only on the prosciutto Benedict, but also in the pastrami sweet potato hash. And it's deeply yummy and addictive.

I'm pretty sure that mustard sauce is also somehow mixed into the breakfast burrito, which is splittable, but not so much shareable. First-timers should definitely give it a try as it features a lot of the flavors on the brunch menu.

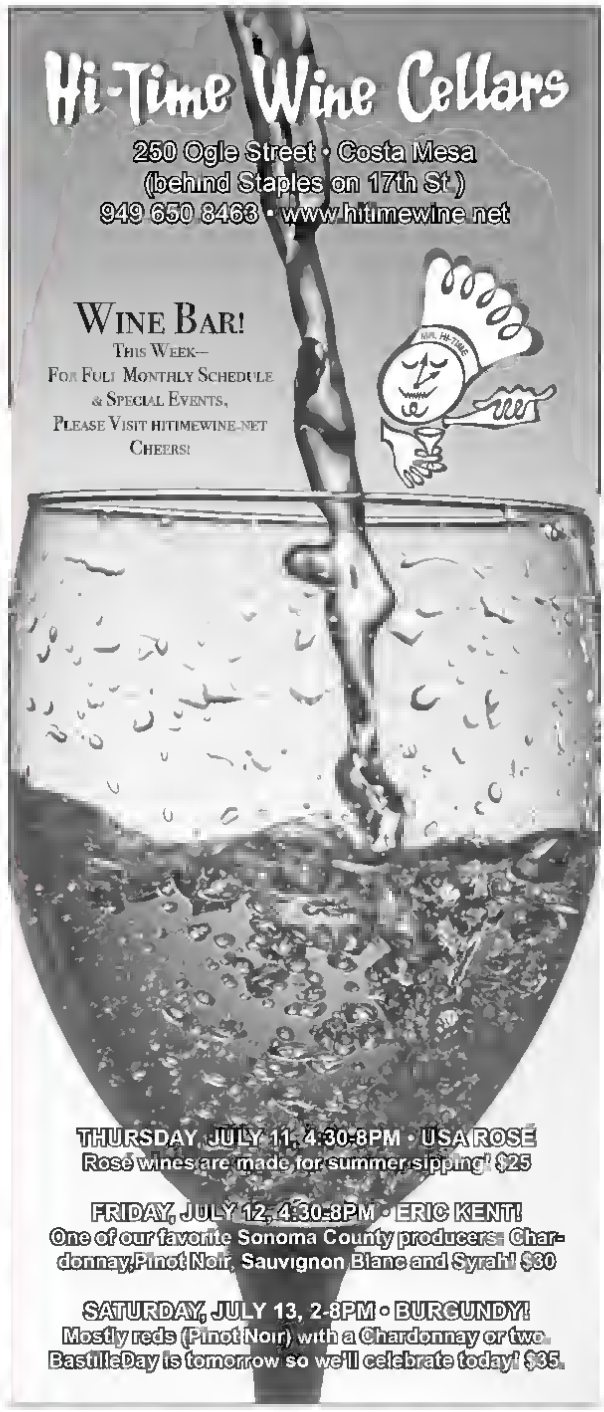
Post-brunch, I'm as full as I am on Thanksgiving day, and I no longer feel like doing much bed-karate. "You're pretty much Brunch Lee," my wife said.

"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 brunches once," I replied, "but I fear the man who has practiced one brunch 10,000 times."

Eat & Drink This Now

» GREG NAGEL

POUR COMPANY
136 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton,
(714) 525-7468; pourcompany.com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Bastille Day is tomorrow so we'll celebrate today! $35.

JARED SWAFFORD

Livin' On a Prayer

Parallel Love: The Story of a Band Called Luxury is unlike any rockumentary you've seen

BY MATT COKER

I don't recall having ever before heard the music from the subject of Matt Hinton's revealing documentary *Parallel Love: The Story of a Band Called Luxury*. One talking head comes onscreen with perhaps the best description for the band, whose heyday was in the 1990s: "Fugazi meets the Smiths." Another notes Luxury sounded not quite British and not quite American. There certainly was (and is) a familiarity to their sound.

The original quartet hails from Toccoa, Georgia, which, at just more than 9,000 residents, is three times smaller than Athens, which is about an hour's drive away and produced such chart toppers as R.E.M., the B-52s and Widespread Panic. None of those bands, nor any of the countless others from the Peach State, has the surprising twist that makes *Parallel Love* unique.

Drummer Gleon Black is shown in childhood photos painted up like a member of KISS, so it's small wonder he's all flopping hair and flailing arms in archival Luxury practice and performance footage that Hinton includes in his documentary, which rolled during the Newport Beach Film Festival in April. Black pounds his kit like Led Zeppelin's John Bonham as bass player Chris Foley and guitarist Jamey Bozeman eke out hard-edged riffs worthy of bands from punk's hardcore second wave.

But what made Luxury truly stand out was their frontman, Bozeman's younger brother Lee, who, unlike his grungier band mates, wore his hair high and tight and dressed, moved and sang as if he were an extra from the U.K.'s New Romantic movement. Comparisons to Morrissey fill the first half of *Parallel Love*, which is apt when it comes to the Luxury singer's sexually ambiguous lyrics, although he possesses a sweeter demeanor and higher-pitched voice than the Pope of Mope.

Which brings us to the reason most of the masses never heard Luxury in the early years. The blue-collar kids sprang from double-wides and a tiny Christian college on the outskirts of Toccoa. Though they did not create Christian music, they were urged by friends from other campus bands to join them at the Cornerstone Festival, which was held in Bushnell, Illinois, and founded by Jesus People USA.

The idea was that at least the ultra-underground indie band would get noticed—and they did by Brandon Ebel, who started his Tooth & Nail Records label in his rented Irvine condo with money from a relative. (He later moved his operation from SoCal to Seattle, where he remains today.) Tooth & Nail was a contemporary Christian music (CCM) operation, but Ebel says during *Parallel Love* that he was on the hunt for punk, rock and hardcore acts with secular as opposed to traditional CCM sounds.

It is nonetheless characterized as a grave disservice to Luxury that the band's first records for Tooth & Nail were sold only in Christian bookstores, where few copies apparently moved. (Lee Bozeman says he never saw documentation on how many of their albums for Tooth & Nail were actually sold.) Christian bookstore patrons obviously were not drawn to his lyrics about touching boys, looking down their shirts or jumping from a male to a female, even though the singer/songwriter was at the time (and is today) married to a woman. He swears on film that those were the feelings of characters in his tunes, not of himself, no matter how personal they come off.

What stopped Luxury from getting off the ground more than being stocked in the wrong shops was a horrific traffic accident while they were on the way home from a Cornerstone Festival in 1995. Lee Bozeman, who was one of the crushed van's three occupants who came away with a broken neck, was the most seriously injured.

Serious also describes the direction his lyrics and the band's more experimental music took after everyone recovered (at least physically). That is when Hinton joined Luxury as "the other guitarist." However, the biggest change of all came with Foley and the Bozeman brothers taking similar paths back to their faith. All three are today orthodox Christian priests. What other band has that going for them?

Hinton, who also wrote, produced and edited *Parallel Love*, will talk about his film after Wednesday's screening at the Art Theatre in Long Beach.

Parallel Love: The Story of a Band Called Luxury drops locally at a time of summer when rockumentaries and concert films are hot at local indie theaters.

Tim Pope's *The Cure: Anniversary 1978-2018 Live in Hyde Park* plays at the Art Theatre and the Frida Cinema on Thursday, July 11 (and again Sunday night at the Frida). The Santa Ana theater also has a 50th-anniversary screening of Michael Wadleigh's *Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace and Music: The Director's Cut* on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings.

Coming July 26 to Regency's South Coast Village in Santa Ana is the new doc *David Crosby: Remember My Name*. The evening of Aug. 1, the Art and the Frida both screen *Grateful Dead: Meet Up at the Movies—Giants Stadium 06-17-91*. And currently scheduled for Aug. 21 at the Art is *Rush: Cinema Strangiato 2019*, which is billed as the Canadian rock trio's first "Annual Exercise in Fan Indulgence."

Check out our Special Screenings page for more info on these films.

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

PARALLEL LOVE

was directed by Matt Hinton. Screens at the Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Wed., 7 p.m. $8-$12.

With Great Power....

BY MATT COKER

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

Kerry Tribe: Double. The artist's single-channel video work has five women who nominally resemble one another reflecting on subjects ranging from their impressions of Los Angeles to their participation in this project. *Grand Central Art Center, www.grandcentralartcenter.com. Open Tues.–Thurs., 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Fri.–Sat., 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m. 3 p.m. Through Sept. 22. Free*

Midsommar. Ari Aster's new horror flick has a young American couple and friends going to a remote Swedish village for a midsummer festival—which takes a sinister turn. *Various theaters, fandango.com. Thurs., July 11. Visit website for show times and ticket prices.*

The Fountain. A scientist (Hugh Jackman) desperately searches for a medical breakthrough to save his cancer stricken wife (Rachel Weisz). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs.–Fri., July 11–12, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

Sound! Euphonium: The Movie–Our Promise: A Brand New Day. See an exclusive recap of *Sound! Euphonium* seasons 1 and 2. Then watch Tatsuya Ishihara's anime sequel. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., July 11, 7 p.m. (English subtitles); Mon., 7 p.m. (dubbed in English). $10.50–$12.50.*

Ralph Breaks the Internet. Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) and Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) discover a wi-fi router leads to adventure. *Civic Center Sunken Gardens, (714) 895-2860. Thurs., July 11. 8 p.m. Free; also at Orange Public Library & History Center, (714) 288-2420. Thurs., July 18. 2 p.m. Free, Placentia Champions Sports Complex, (714) 993-8232. Fri., 8 p.m. Free, Orville R. Lewis Park, (562) 420-1073. Sat., 6:30 p.m. Free.*

The Cure: Anniversary 1978–2018 Live in Hyde Park. Robert Smith called this show "a fabulous day none of us will ever forget." *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 11 & Sun., 7:30 p.m. $7–$10.50, also at Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org Thurs., July 11, 9 p.m. $14.*

Miss Arizona. A former beauty queen (Johanna Braddy) packs four abused women into her Escalade to escape into the streets of Los Angeles. *AMC Orange 30 at the Outlets, (714) 769-4288. Fri.–Thurs., July 18. Call theater for show times. $6.99–$13.79.*

They're Inside. Two sisters (Karli Hall and Amanda Kathleen Ward) join friends in an isolated cabin, where they are being filmed by masked strangers. *The Frida Cinema, the fridacinema.org. Fri., 2:30, 8 & 11 p.m., Sat., noon, Sun., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m., Mon.–Wed., 2:30 & 10 p.m., Thurs., July 18, noon & 10 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

Paddington 2. A young bear (voiced by Ben Whishaw) takes odd jobs to buy Aunt Lucy (Imelda Staunton) a 100th birthday present—only to have it stolen. *Yorba Regional Park, (714) 973-6838. Fri., 6 p.m. Free, also at Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Laguna Niguel at Ocean Ranch Village, (949) 373-7900, Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Rancho Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita Town Center, (949) 635-1888. Tues. & Thurs., July 18. 10 a.m. $6 (includes movie and snack pack).*

Little Giants. Rick Moranis and Ed O'Neill play brothers and rival Pee-Wee Football coaches in small-town Ohio. *Orange County Great Park, ocgp.org. Fri., doors open, 6:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World. Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel) races Grimmel (F. Murray Abraham) to find a secret dragon utopia. *Lake Forest Sports Park, ci.lakeforest.ca.civicplus.com. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free; also at Orange County Great Park, (866) 829-3829. Sat., doors open, 6:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part. Lego Duplo space invaders are wreaking everything. *San Marino Park, (714) 562-3860. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free.*

Mirai. A 4-year old boy, jealous of his new baby sister, storms off to the garden where he meets strange guests from his past and future. *The Source OC, thesourceoc.com. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free.*

Wreck-it Ralph. Ralph sets off on a game hopping trip to prove he's hero material. *Willow Park, publicaffairs.disneyland.com/community/celebratesummer/. Fri., 7:45 p.m. Free.*

Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse. A young teen (voiced by Shameik Moore) actually becomes his hero, crossing paths with Spidey's counterparts from other dimensions. *Stanton Central Park, (714) 890-4270. Fri., 8 p.m. Free.*

Incredibles 2. Bob Parr/Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) takes care of the kids while his wife, Helen/Elastigirl (Holly Hunter), is out saving the world. *Arovista Park, (714) 990-7103. Fri., 8 p.m. Free, also at William Peak Park, (714) 562-3860. Fri., 8:15 p.m. Free.*

Up. Ed Asner is great at voicing an old guy (such a stretch!). *Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina, (949) 729-3863. Fri., dusk. Free, but there is a fee to park.*

Breathless. A small-time thief (Jean-Paul Belmondo) becomes a cop killer and tries to get a hip American journalism student (Jean Seberg) to run away with him to Italy. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat.–Sun., 11 a.m. $9–$10.*

Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace and Music. The Director's Cut. Michael Wadleigh's 1971 Best Documentary Oscar winner was shot on Max Yasgur's upstate New York dairy farm over three days in August '69. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat.–Sun., 2:30 & 7 p.m. $7.50–$10.50.*

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. Everything still goes wrong for young Greg (Zachary Gordon) once school lets out for the summer. *Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina, (949) 729-3863. Sat., dusk. Free, but there is a fee to park.*

The Room. Tommy Wiseau plays an amiable banker having a grand old time in a gorgeously shot San Francisco with his fiancee (Juliette Danielle)—until his conflicted best friend (Greg Sestero) joins in to form a love triangle. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 10 p.m. $7.50–$10.50.*

Easy Rider. Billy (Dennis Hopper) and "Captain America" (Peter Fonda) are tripping while road-tripping across the country on choppers. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Sun. & Wed., 4 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

The Wild Bunch. William Holden leads a cast of aging outlaws looking for one last big score. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.–Tues., 2:30–5:30 & 8:30 p.m. $7.50–$10.50.*

Smallfoot. A Yeti (voiced by Channing Tatum) is convinced those elusive "human" creatures are real. *Various Regal/Edwards theaters, regmovies.com. Tues., 10 a.m. $1.*

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial. Elliott, little Drew Barrymore's scream and dudes in space suits star in the ultimate going-home flick. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $3.*

The Met: Live in HD: Aida. Verdi's opera is sung in Italian with English subtitles. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Wed., 1 & 7 p.m. $10.50–$12.50.*

The Wrestler. Mickey Rourke plays an aging wrestler struggling to fit into normal life after being forced into retirement by health issues. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed.–Thurs., July 18, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7.50–$10.50.*

Parallel Love: The Story of a Band Called Luxury. An alt-rock band was reaching for national fame in the 1990s when a tour bus crash changed everything. See "Livin' On a Prayer," page 22. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Wed., 7 p.m. $9–$12.*

Oliver! An orphan is sold to an undertaker because he asked for more food, glorious food. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

American Graffiti. High-school grads spend the last night of their 1962 summer vacation cruising the strip with their buddies. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., July 18. 1 p.m. Free.*

The Breaking Point. A charter-boat captain (John Garfield) takes on dangerous cargo to save his boat, support his family and preserve his dignity. *Laguna Art Museum, (949) 494-8971. Thurs., July 18, 6 p.m. Free with museum admission, but advance tickets are recommended.*

Romeo & Juliet. Douglas Booth and Hailee Steinfeld star as the couple that secretly marries despite their families hating one another. *Peppertree Park, (714) 573-3226. Thurs., July 18, 7:50 p.m. Free.*

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Crime of the Centuries

Ragtime's themes resonate more than ever

BY JOEL BEERS

DOUG CATILLER

It's ridiculous to think a 21-year-old musical based on a 1975 novel set in the first decade of the 20th century was ahead of its time. It's about as ridiculous as giving the musical treatment to E.L. Doctorow's novel *Ragtime*, which had no real dialogue but did have, among others, Henry Ford, J.P. Morgan, Harry Houdini, Booker T. Washington and—oh, what the hell—anarchist Emma Goldman.

But in the 1990s, Broadway had a hard-on for Big American Stories, broaching everything from *The Grapes of Wrath* to the Civil War to the *Titanic*, so why not throw $10 million at *Ragtime*? And it's not like it didn't get noticed. It ran two years and earned 13 Tony Awards (although it still lost money and the Best Musical garland, which went to Disney's *Lion King*).

However, the critical consensus seemed to be that there wasn't much of a heart beating inside this lavish show set against the birth of what would become known as the American Century. In the words of *The New York Times*' Ben Brantley, the play seemed to lack a subconscious, it was a "parade that never strays too far from Main Street."

That's definitely *not* the impression left by Casey Stangl's production at the Chance Theater. The three main concerns of immigration, race and gender equity are so conscious that it's hard to imagine this show wasn't written by that same goofy autohot that generates earthquake stories on deadline for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Stangl's stripped-down version—light on effects and scenery—underscores the contemporary resonance. The biggest knock on the Terrence McNally book and Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens' score was a lack of character development. It's the same show, so that's still a problem, but tossing out the bells and whistles means the smaller moments speak volumes. And no moment is more magnified than that when a young boy asks his mother why a child is tied to her father with a rope, and the mother explains immigrants are terrified of losing their children.

Even in this more economical version, 32 musical numbers remain, along with a lot of story, much of which seems superfluous, draining focus from the productino's three intersecting stories. There's Whitey, the well-heeled comfortable suburbanites of New Rochelle, New York, as personified by Father (Ron Hastings), a decent-enough man who's incapable of dealing with the rapid demographic changes of the country or his wife's (Rachel Oliveros Catalano) brazen yearning to be more of a human and less of his property. There's the Other, the fresh-off-the-literal-boat immigrants from Eastern Europe, embodied by the character of Tateh (a commanding Wyn Moreno), who sees the American Dream can make for a very rough first and 100th impression. And then there's the flip side of that American Dream, the black folks, chiefly Coalhouse Walker (Ausar Landon Wright), a Harlem ragtime pianist whose attempt to rectify the mistakes of his past goes terribly awry.

It'd be tough for any play to juggle what is essentially three plots in one, and with so many characters and musical numbers, even Stangl's more muscular production isn't enough to keep things from feeling as if they're stuck in second gear some of the time. But thanks to a uniformly well-voiced cast and killer six-member band, the rhythm slows at times but never breaks. And that makes what is arguably *Ragtime*'s chief concern very clear: the injustices heaped upon Coalhouse and the system's inability to grant him any redress.

Though this *Ragtime* ends the same way as previous incarnations, it doesn't. I remember the 1997 Los Angeles pre-Broadway production, even amid the story's stark ending, there was an odd sort of optimism that somehow made the *Ragtime* of that era almost a feel-good story (the anthemic score didn't hurt).

It's hard to feel *that* good at this show's conclusion, which is odd in itself. Whatever the monkeys in your head whom you've chosen to tune into to make sense of our current situation are telling you, it seems self-evident that at no time in this nation's history have issues of social justice, gender equity and the human beings at the center of the immigration debate been championed by so many. Yet rising nativism, cheap, obfuscating bullshit such as #AllLivesMatter; and detention centers in every state, including two in Santa Ana, serve as ominous counterweights. Twenty-one years ago, it was almost fun thinking that the moral arc of the universe was bending, slowly but inexorably, toward something that did more than pay lip-service to the lofty ideals codified in our founding documents and the inscription on the pedestal of that lady holding the torch in New York. In 2019, reality seems far more intractable.

I guess we'll see what *Ragtime* has to say in 2040.

RAGTIME

at the Chance Theater, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, (888) 455-4212, chancetheater.com. Thurs., 7:30 p.m., Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 3 & 8 p.m., Sun., 3 p.m. Through July 28. $25-$49.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

July 12-18

***ALL ABOUT EVE*:** Broadcast from London's Noel Coward Theatre, Gillian Anderson stars as an aging actress who hears suspicions about the young new ingenue on Broadway in this National Theatre Live screening. Fri., 7 p.m. $17. $22. Irvine Barclay, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine. (949) 854-5455. www.thebarclay.org.

NORTH RIDGE HIKE: Take a guided nature tour of moderate intensity, suitable for ages 8 and older. Sat., 8 a.m. $5-$10. The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo, 28811 Ortega Hwy., San Juan Capistrano. (949) 489-9778. tmvreserve.org.

"TINY TERRORS 2": A group show in which more than 100 artists display miniature creepy pieces. Sat., 7 p.m. Free. Dark Art Emporium, 251 Elm Ave., Long Beach. (562) 612-1118. www.darkartemporium.com.

***PETER AND THE STARCATCHER*:** Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's prequel to *Peter Pan* reveals how an orphaned boy became the King of Neverland. Sat.-Sun., 7:30 p.m. Through Aug. 4. $15. Camino Real Playhouse, 31778 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano. (949) 489-8082; www.caminorealplayhouse.org.

A NIGHT IN PARIR VAUDEVILLE: Experience the dazzling entertainment of the French city in the 1920s, featuring cabaret, comedy burlesque, magic and performances by the Hollywood It Girls. Vintage attire encouraged. Sat., 8 p.m. $12-$20. 21+. Federal Underground, 102 Pine Ave., Long Beach. (562) 435-2000. www.thefederalth.com.

FROM DINOSAURS TO PEOPLE: An engaging look at how dinosaurs ruled the Earth, with fun guided activities, tours and fossil displays. Sun., 11 a.m. Free. Heritage Museum of Orange County, 3101 W. Harvard St., Santa Ana. (714) 540-0404. heritagemuseumoc.org.

AMAZING RAPTORS: HAWKS, OWLS & FALCONS: Orange County Bird of Prey Center offers interactive activities and displays, along with the chance to meet a live hawk, owl, falcon and bald eagle. Sun., 1 p.m. Free. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, 18751 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach. (949) 497-8324, www.eventbrite.com/amazingraptors.

SPEEDWAY FAIR DERBY: Motorcycles race through the Action Sports Arena's flat track. Sun., 7:30 p.m. $15. $17.50. OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500. ocfair.com.

STILL KILLING IT

GREENEYED SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY

Two Turntables and a Microphone

Hard work and success are where it's at for Beck

BY JIMMY ALVAREZ

Music is the foundation for so many things in people's lives. Certain songs or bands remind us of our best and worst days. And while bands from the '90s are all the rage again, among those still killing it is Beck.

Bizarre lyrics and a cool sound have always been his allure. Only Beck can say something like "From the time of chimpanzees, I was a monkey," then follow it up with an inspirational proclamation such as "Things are gonna change—I can feel it!" Despite the seeming disconnect, we fell for his first hit, "Loser."

Today, Beck is a titan in the music industry. He has won Grammy Awards, his music has been featured in films and commercials, and he's run the late-night gamut from *Saturday Night Live* to *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* He continues to play to sold-out crowds worldwide. But to get his music and understand why he's so successful, you really need to know where he's been.

Beck Hansen was born in Southern California in 1970 as Bek David Campbell. Dad was a Canadian arranger, composer and conductor, while Mom was part of Andy Warhol's orbit in New York. In Los Angeles, his family struggled and lived in tough neighborhoods, at one point, Beck was sent to Kansas to live with his grandparents, whom he once said were concerned about his "weird" home life. His grandfather was a Presbyterian minister, and Beck was influenced by church music and hymns during that time. After his parents separated when he was 10, he moved back to LA to live with his mom and brother.

He was 16 when he got his first guitar, and as the story goes, he was drawn to the sounds of Sonic Youth, Pussy Galore, X and Grandmaster Flash.

Having felt like an outcast amongst the outcasts, he dropped out of school after junior high, saying that though he felt education was important, he felt unsafe at school. He worked odd jobs and took in musical education whenever there was a lesson to be learned.

In 1989, he moved to New York, where he learned the do's and don'ts of life, including that people eventually screw you over, or vice versa, not always intentionally or maliciously. After two years on the East Coast, discouraged by the prospect of another homeless New York winter, he returned to LA in '91. He has said that he left New York because he was tired of being cold and hungry and was tired of getting beat up. He felt he used up all his friends, and everyone in the scene got sick of him.

Back in LA, he immediately started playing wherever he could, including on buses, incorporating a little bit of everything into his sound. Sometimes, he'd be covering a well-known tune, but couldn't tell if anyone was listening, so he started making up lyrics. It was a move that got him noticed.

With help from his friends, he put out the single "Loser" in '93, and it blew up. Just a year later, he was a worldwide sensation. He was so inspired he put out album after album. He couldn't find the same magic, though, and the prospect of being known as a one-hit wonder weighed heavily on him.

Determined to do something new, he went into the studio and came out with his signature album, *Odelay*, which featured the mega-hits "Devils Haircut," "The New Pollution," "Jack-Ass" and "Where It's At." Since then, he's released eight more studio albums, with another coming this year. His moment of self-redemption for all those years of struggle came in 2014, when his folk-infused record, *Morning Phase*, was named Album of the Year at the Grammys. Overall, he's had 17 Grammy nominations and won seven times.

He's now considered an alt-rock god, and his performances are nothing less than spectacular, reminiscent of Earth, Wind & Fire in their glory days. See for yourself this week at FivePoint Amphitheatre, where he'll share the stage with Cage the Elephant, Spoon and Starcrawler.

Not long ago, a friend told me, "Before he hit it big, my friends and I would see Beck play at Highland Grounds coffee shop in Hollywood, and we'd laugh at this goofball. Looks like he got the last laugh." Yes, that quirky kid definitely did okay for himself.

BECK

performs at FivePoint Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon, Irvine, (949) 988-6800, www.fivenation.com/venues/33640/fivepoint-amphitheatre. Wed., 6 p.m. $45-$500. All ages

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COURTESY OF THE HEROES

Everyday Heroes

Chris Jones and his punk band focus on something bigger

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

It's not too difficult to guess that Chris Jones is in a punk rock band. He's covered in tattoos, and he looks like a professional ass-kicker. But what might not be so obvious are his unshakeable optimism and outspoken love for Jesus Christ. He manifests intense positive energy, both in his everyday life and while fronting his band the Heroes. "When people talk about us, I want 'em to say, 'Those guys love God. They love their families, they love themselves, and they love other people. . . . And their music kicks ass," he says with a laugh.

Jones formed the band in the early 2000s under the name the Bar Room Heroes. They gained considerable success as a rowdy OC punk band and released the album *Prize Fighter* in 2002. But just as the group were about to embark on a tour alongside Arizona hardcore band Mob 47's, Jones came to a breaking point. "My marriage was horrible, and something wasn't right. I just didn't feel like I could go," he explains. "And God spoke to me and said, 'This is your last warning. Don't go on tour.' So I quit the tour and shut down the band."

He got sober and spent the next few years immersing himself in Christianity before forming Call to Glory, a Christian punk band. "It was as punk rock as any other band, but the lyrics were different," Jones says. "And we ended up touring the world."

But things came to a halt once again as Jones relapsed. "I think I got Hep C from getting tattooed when I was at Soledad [State Prison]. So I went on this [treatment] called Interferon," he says. "And it says right on the box, 'Drug addicts are known to relapse and die.' Needless to say, I lost my mind. My life got pretty crazy for a while."

By 2014, Jones had sobered up again. He decided to get the Bar Room Heroes back together, but there would be a few significant changes. "We had a big show at the Observatory, and my bass player backed out of it," Jones says. "He was going off the deep end."

Luckily, through his church, Jones had become acquainted with Jonny Ray Bartel, a bassist best known for his time with LA blues legends the Red Devils and Americana supergroup the Knitters. "I knew his repertoire, so I decided to just throw a hail mary and ask him if he wanted to join my band," Jones recalls.

It was Bartel who suggested the band simplify their name. "He was like, 'You know what, dude. We don't drink anymore, and we don't party anymore,'" Jones says. "So we dropped the 'Bar Room.' And it was a shift. It was kind of us maturing. We went from garage punk rock to focusing on something bigger than the music."

The Heroes' sound is best described as "greasy rock & roll", it's fast and loud, with shredding guitar solos, moshable power-chord riffs and hearty sing-along choruses. In addition to Bartel and Jones, the group includes drummer Ruben Rivera (an original member of Manic Hispanic and the Grabbers) and lead guitarist Steve Byars (of skate-punk pioneers No Rules).

Having released the full-length album *Beautiful Disaster* last year, the Heroes are now working their way through a string of shows this summer. In addition to gigging at such typical OC venues as Fitzgerald's Irish Pub in Huntington Beach, they'll be performing a special set for their sober fans. On July 19, the Heroes will play for an audience in early recovery at HisPlace church in Westminster, where Jones is an associate pastor. The event will also feature speakers and program meetings. "We want to provide an atmosphere for newly sober people to come and be entertained," Jones says. "It's not just a night of recovery, but a night of fun and relaxation and some socializing in a safe atmosphere."

THE HEROES

perform as part of Living Free Recovery Night at HisPlace, 14061 Chestnut St., Westminster, (714) 893-6555, hisplace.com/wm. July 19, 7 p.m. Free; pre-show dinner, $2.

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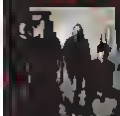

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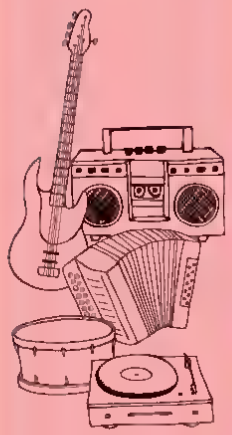

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COURTESY OF EPITAPH RECORDS

Friday

ROYS OON'T CRY: A FRANK OCEAN & ODD FUTURE NIGHT. 9 p.m., free. 21+. La Santa Bar, 270 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (714) 544-1995; lasantaoc.com.

IN THE ENO—TRIBUTE TO LINKIN PARK, RIGHTEOUS & THE WICKED (TRIBUTE TO REO HOT CHILI PEPPERS). 5 p.m. $12, all ages. Garden Amphitheatre, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove. (949) 415-8544; gardenamp.com

LOS SKARNALES. 8 p.m. $15. 21+. Alexs Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim Blvd., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292; www.alexsbar.com.

MOONSVILLE COLLECTIVE, TROUBLE IN THE WIND, ROEBUCK & THE TWO DOLLAR BILL BAND. 7:30 p.m. $8. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; wayfarercm.com

THE PETTY BREARERS. 8 p.m. $20. all ages. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano. (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com

RERELUTION, COLLIE RUODZ, IYA TERRA, DJ MACKLE. 7 p.m. $30.50-$60.50. all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500; pacamp.com

VANSIRE & ROYO. 9 p.m., $15, all ages. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Saturday

A TRIBE CALLED RED. 9 p.m. $20. all ages. Constellation Room at the Observatory. www.observatoryoc.com

BAD TIMES PRESENTS THE CRUCES, THE NO 44, THE SWEATS, BANNED FROM JAPAN. 8 p.m. $8. all ages. Garden Amphitheatre. gardenamp.com

HAMMER'S HOUSE PARTY. 8 p.m. $29-$207.50. all ages. FivePoint Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon Ave., Irvine. (949) 369-6900. www.fivenation.com.

HINOS. 9 p.m.. $20. 21+. La Santa Bar, lasantaoc.com

MR. CROWLEY—TRIBUTE TO OZZY. 3 p.m. free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock n' Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. (714) 871-7459; www.slidebarfullerton.com

ROCK THE *QUEEN* WITH THE WHO GENERATION, BRITAIN'S FINEST, ARENA. 7 p.m. $35. all ages. *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach. (562) 877-0738; www.thequeenmary.com

SCOTTY SIRE. 8 p.m., $20. all ages. Hanse al Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; www.hob.com/anaheim.

Sunday

BLOWN AWAY—A TRIBUTE TO CARRIE UNDERWOOD. 5 p.m., free. all ages. The Slidebar Rock n' Roll Kitchen, www.slidebarfullerton.com.

DAVID ROSALES. 1 p.m. free. all ages. Ocean Deck at Pacific City, 21010 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach. (714) 930-2345; www.gopacificcity.com

LOS LOROS. 8:30 p.m., $15-$20. all ages. The Hangar at OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500; ocfair.com

SUNDAY NIGHT MUNCHIES JAM. 7:30 p.m., $10, 21+. The Doll Hut, 107 S. Adams St., Anaheim, (562) 277-8075; www.facebook.com/worldfamousdh.

Monday

EMAEL, MEMORY OEN, NERULAZ REACH. 8 p.m., free. 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com

SINGER SONGWRITER NIGHT. 6:30 p.m., free, all ages. The Harp Inn Irish Pub, 130 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 646-8855; www.facebook.com/costamesamshpub

Tuesday

JAKE HITT. 8 p.m. free. all ages. Hanse al Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, www.hob.com/anaheim

JAKE MURPHY, BIROGETTE BLANK, DAVE EASTMAN. 6 p.m., free. all ages. Durty Nelly's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 2815 Red Hill Ave., Costa Mesa. (714) 957-1951; www.facebook.com/aconstuchrewx.

NIGHT VERSES, DEAD AMERICAN, AURAS; TAKERS LEAVERS. 8 p.m., $10-$15. 21+. The Slidebar Rock n' Roll Kitchen; www.slidebarfullerton.com.

Wednesday

BAD RELIGION. 8 p.m. $40. all ages. The Observatory; www.observatoryoc.com.

KING OF POP—A MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE. 8:30 p.m., $17.50-$20, all ages. The Hangar at OC Fair & Event Center; ocfair.com

Thursday, July 18

ALBUM ATTACK TAKES ON THE CARS' DEBUT. 8 p.m. $5. 21+. The Wayfarer; wayfarercm.com

CONFIDE, AT THE SKYLINES, SET SIGHTS, THE ARSON CHOIR, WEAK MAOE STRONG, WHEN AUTUMN SLEEPS. 6 p.m., $20. all ages. Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim. (714) 635-6052; allages.com.

THE FENIANS. 5 p.m. free. all ages. William R. Mason Regional Park, 18712 University Dr., Irvine; www.ocparks.com/summerconcertseries.

PEACH KELLI POP. 8 p.m. $10. 21+. Alexs Bar; www.alexsbar.com.

PURPLE MADNESS—AMERICA'S PRINCE EXPERIENCE. 8:30 p.m., $17.50-$20, all ages. The Hangar at OC Fair & Event Center; ocfair.com

REGGAE IN THE TREEHOUSE. 7 p.m. $8, all ages. Garden Amphitheatre; gardenamp.com.

WANO. 9 p.m. $12, all ages. Constellation Room, www.observatoryoc.com

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Quickies

My fiance and I have been in a relationship for 11 years. His best friend is one of his exes, and that has always bothered me. What do I do?
Needing Guidance After Getting Engaged

You could make up your mind to get over it, NGAGE. Or you could threaten to break off the engagement unless your fiancé cuts his best friend out of his life. That would be an emotionally manipulative asshole power move. But, hey, you wouldn't be the first person to wait for the moment of maximum leverage before telling your partner that, despite what you led them to believe (or allowed them to assume), they are going to have to choose between their best friend(s) and the person they're about to marry or just married. Fair warning: If you issue that ultimatum and your fiancé (or husband) writes in and asks me what to do, I'm going to tell him to leave you.

I'm a 58-year-old happily married gay man, and I have a well-hidden kink that I've had since childhood: I get off on destructive, city-smashing giants—think Godzilla. Since this is impossible to realize, I rely on drawings and other images. After Tumblr removed the adult content, I found my way to newer websites. Some featured manga-style drawings of giant prepubescent boys. I've NEVER experienced any attraction to children, but these cartoons are a turn-on. Does lusting after cartoon images of boys make me a pedophile?
Freaky Erotic Art Requires Serious Self-Scrutiny

If you aren't sexually attracted to children, FEARSSS, you aren't a pedophile. Pedophilia is not something a non-pedophile drifts into after viewing a little squicky manga. Pedophilia, according to the best and most current research, is a hardwired sexual orientation—one that can never be acted on for moral and ethical reasons. That said, I would urge you to avoid viewing or downloading this stuff. It's illegal in the United States (and lots of other places) to possess drawings or computer-generated images of children that depict "a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct," per federal law.

I understand the pleasure received by the "suckee," but I need help understanding what benefit or pleasure the "sucker" derives from the exchange. Is it the taste of come?
Confusion Over Cocky Knobblers

We do it for the glory, COCK, and that warm feeling that comes over us when we can look up and say "Emission accomplished." (Sorry about that.)

Where can a gal go to find reluctant/nonconsensual porn that isn't overly rapey? I really love power play (think "naughty secretary gets punished")—but when I look for reluctant/nonconsensual porn, I often come across male-perspective rape fantasies. I'd love to wank to a video or story about a woman reluctantly enjoying herself while her aggressor fucks her up the ass, but every search is fraught with the perils of finding something truly rapey. And that just makes me feel sad and icky. I'm willing to spend money if I trust the source. I just don't know where to look! Is the issue with my keywords? Help!
Really Enjoys Specific Pornographic E-Content, Thanks

"This is one of the things people don't understand about ethical and feminist porn—it's not just soft lighting and sweet lovemaking," said Tristan Taormino, the feminist author, sex educator, podcaster and porn director. "Ethical and feminist porn can also have an edge and feature power play, so long as there's consent. My series 'Rough Sex,' which has three volumes, is all about real women's kink fantasies, and there will be something in there for RESPECT. In addition, I recommend bellesa.co, where she can use the search term 'rough,' and xconfessions.com, where she should search for 'BDSM.'"

I've written before to ask if there is a newspaper or online publication that translates Savage Love into Spanish. If there is, I can't find it. I can hardly believe no one does this.
Something's Lost In Translation

As far as I know, my column isn't translated into Spanish. But it can be read in Italian in *Internazionale*, the weekly Italian newsmagazine.

I'm a 57-year-old man, and I have been in a relationship for 10 months. I have some erection problems that are helped by ED meds. The issue is I haven't told my girlfriend I'm taking them. I take a pill when we are together "just in case," but this is costly and the resulting lack of spontaneity makes me anxious. Also, I feel like I'm holding on to this secret.
Please Send Advice

Call your girlfriend. It's time you had the talk. Give her your reasons. Tell her it's not her fault—and, really, it's not her fault or yours. Men don't take boner pills because they aren't attracted to (or horny for) their partners, as some fear. The reality is quite the opposite: Horny men take ED meds. She may need to hear it a few times before it sinks in, PSA, but you have nothing to be ashamed of. And if she enjoys the sex, she should be as grateful for these meds as you are—and she shouldn't want you to waste them any more than you do.

I'm a guy in my late 20s. I date women and occasionally hook up with guys. In between, I have toys. My question has to do with something that happens when I'm using a dildo and stimulating my prostate: During intense stimulation I pee (I think)? My confusion lies in the fact that what comes out is clear and doesn't smell like urine. I know there's a debate about female squirting and whether it's urine, but I'm still very confused. But is this normal for a man? Should I worry?
Leaking Everywhere And Knowing It's Not Good

Your dildo isn't just stimulating your prostate gland, which produces the milky fluid that comes flying out of your cock when you ejaculate, but your Cowper's glands as well. The Cowper's glands are located just under your prostate, and they produce a clear fluid, a.k.a. "pre-come," that basically flushes out your urethra during arousal. Urine is acidic, and acids can harm sperm cells. So pre-come neutralizes whatever acids might be lurking in your urethra—basically, pre-come makes sure your urethra is a safe space for your sperm cells. Some men produce very little pre-come; some men produce buckets of it; and some men produce more under particular circumstances. Don't worry, LEAKING, just enjoy.

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com): Work questions on the podcast?! Yup. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net; follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

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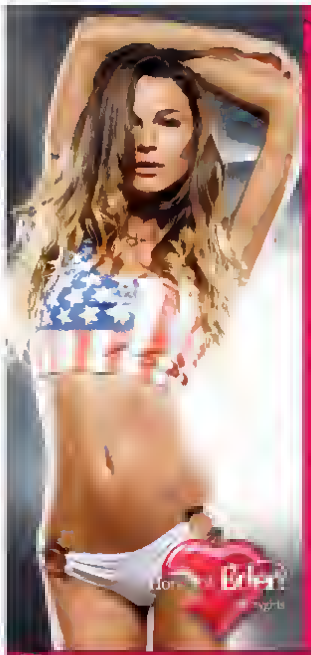

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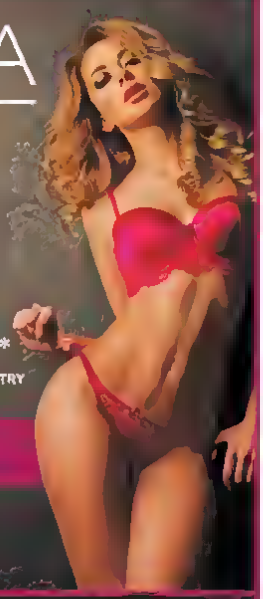

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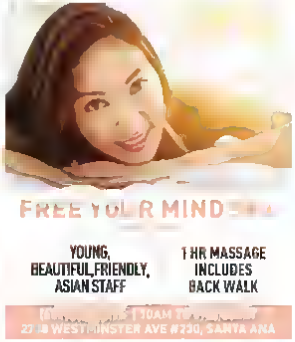
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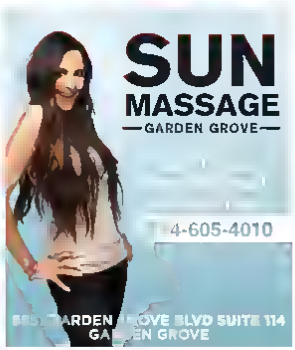
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FROM LEFT: *RIO, POR NO LLORAR* BY ALEX DONIS. *TENSION* BY MIGUEL ANGEL REYES. AND *TIJERINA TANTRUM* BY DELILAH MONTOYA/COURTESY OF LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Crossing Time and Borders

'Self-Help Graphics: 1983–1991' at Laguna Art Museum looks brand-new

BY LISA BLACK

What struck me right from the get-go about the 16 serigraphs of Laguna Art Museum's (LAM) upstairs exhibit is how immediate and vibrant each one looks. All pulled from its permanent collection, they were purchased by the museum in 1992 from Self Help Graphics & Art (SHG) in an acquisition of 170 screenprints by 90 artists. Yet the works in "Self-Help Graphics: 1983-1991" look as if they could have been made yesterday. Each radiates an unmistakable energy: the colors vibrate against one another, layered images multiply meanings through disrupted grids, and many kinds of borders are crossed.

The more I learned about SHG the more I understood this timelessness. The Boyle Heights art center/print shop has been operating at the intersection of art and social justice since 1973, with a reach that's both local and global. For more than 45 years, it has thrown an annual *Dia de los Muertos* celebration, with about 10,000 people now participating. Plus, SHG was founded by a nun. A screen-printer herself, Sister Karen Boccalero was inspired by yet another screen-printing nun.

Sister Mary Corita Kent was as active in the Pop Art era as Andy Warhol, yet she got little credit for the graphic wonders she created with Wonder Bread's label. Her prolific oeuvre transmitted messages of love and a firm belief in justice and art for the masses. Hippies adopted her images as emblems for the counterculture. Corita's *Love Is Hard Work*, with swipes of Roy G. Biv stacked above the title's words would be familiar to anyone who'd ever perused a poster shop. The sister was a beloved teacher at Immaculate Heart College in LA until some cardinal declared her too "liberal" and "communist," his accusations so breaking Corita's heart that she returned to secular life (though she kept creating).

The silkscreen printing technique goes back to China's Song Dynasty (960-1279). In the 20th century, the process was by far the least expensive way to mass-produce art, which became critical for protests. Each color is executed separately; so if a serigraph contains 16 colors, its creation is akin to making 16 works of art to produce one image. Its alchemical mysteries seem best learned through a hands-on approach. And Boccalero tapped that notion when she launched the Screenprint Atelier Program at SHG in 1980.

The ateliers in turn launched a wave of resistance and empowerment intertwined with the art making. The Chicana/o and Latinx artists who participated went on to become leaders, many of them professors, including Yreina Cervantez. The three-month workshops provided 12 artists with a master printer as teacher and all the materials and space needed to learn the craft. As each print was completed, it was mandatory the 11 others stopped what they were doing to gather, explains Cervantez in the video accompanying the exhibit. The artist would then detail the process she went through to produce the final result.

It was not only sharing techniques that made the ateliers amazing, according to the Cal State Northridge professor and artist, whose mural *Ofrenda* featuring Dolores Huerta you may have seen in downtown LA. But it was also articulating how each artist saw themselves and whether that was expressed through what they made. Cervantez's *Danza Ocelotl* is not to be missed, though the fact it's done with a mere four colors is astonishing. It has a deceptive two-dimensionality, with a frame and a flat mask over the face of a crowned woman—her visage containing the cosmos, her ancestors mingling with her own powerful presence. As you gaze into the print, it looks right back into you.

"Self-Help Graphics: 1983-1991" was supposed to close in May, but the exhibit has been extended until Sept. 22. People like it; the staff of the museum likes it. One docent told me he's met some of the artists who've come to take a peek at a print they made and haven't seen in decades. Another visitor told him she was the model for a child depicted in one screenprint in LAM's collection and is related to the infant in *Plumas Para Paloma*, both by Glenna Boltuch Avila. The artist was commissioned to paint a mural for the 1984 Summer Olympics Arts Festival, *L.A. Freeway Kids*, located on the south side of the 101 freeway between Los Angeles and Main streets, was restored in 2012. As director of LA's Citywide Mural program, Boltuch Avila has coordinated the creation of hundreds of murals, painting some 75 of her own.

The video playing is an oral history, titled *Entre Tinta y Lucha*, that was originally made in honor of SHG's 45th anniversary last year. In it, Chaz Bojorquez describes how Boccalero rejected him at first, saying, "Graffiti is not art; it belongs in the street." Bojorquez grew up in Highland Park, exploring cement riverbanks, hillsides and alleys, where he became obsessed with graffiti. But Boccalero claimed the art form was "'anti-Chicano.' Chicano is about family, migration, identity, farm workers, border issues . . ." explained Bojorquez. "Five to 10 years later, she gave me a one-man show there."

The show's prints look fresh aesthetically, but the prevailing subject matter Boccalero defined to a young Bojorquez is, quite painfully, as relevant today as it was when LAM curated its first show from the acquisition in 1995. Consider what then-director Susan M. Anderson wrote in the catalog for the traveling exhibit, "Across the Street":

"As art and culture from Mexico has consistently played a role in the history of art in California, and as *current dramas relating to border issues and immigration* unfold, the museum has identified the need to organize exhibitions that explore art and issues with roots on both sides of the border" (my emphasis).

Perhaps a young artist is at SHG right now, processing her reaction to the child concentration camps along the southern U.S. border in a vivid and devastating work of many colors.

Or just take a long, close look at Delilah Montoya's *Tyerina Tantrum*. In hindsight, the 30-year-old print looks directly into our present.

"SELF-HELP GRAPHICS: 1983-1991" at Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-8971, lagunaartmuseum.org. Open Fri.-Tues., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Through Sept. 22. $5-$7

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